

# AMERICAN INDIAN

**UTAH**  
LIFE ELEVATED

Utah Rock Art, Tom Till

## UTAH OFFICE OF TOURISM

Utah takes its name from the Apache word for the Navajo, or Yuttahih, "one that is higher up." Europeans mistakenly thought this referred to the peoples who lived higher up in the mountains than the Navajo, so they called these high mountain-dwelling people Utes. Today, Utah's Shoshoni, Goshute, Ute, Paiute and Navajo (Dine') peoples continue to thrive on the lands of their ancestors.

The Goshute, Navajo, and Paiute occupy lands in the desert regions of the state and adopted cultures relative to that region. The Shoshone and Ute culture was similar until they acquired the horse and adopted a mountain plains way of life, which enabled them to expand their range and hunt large game animals.

Utah's five distinct American Indian cultures honor unique heritages that may be found among the state's many sacred places, dwelling sites, rock art locations and museum exhibits.

### Utah's Indigenous Tribes

#### Shoshone (Northern Utah, Mountains Region)

Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation, 707 North Main Street, Brigham City, UT 84302, 435-734-2286

#### Ute (Eastern Utah, Colorado Plateau Region)

Ute Indian Tribe, PO Box 190, Fort Duchesne, UT 84026, 435-722-5141

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, PO Box 248, Towaoc, CO 81334, 970-565-3751

White Mesa Ute Council, PO Box 7096, Blanding, UT 84511, 435-678-3397

#### Goshute (West-Central Utah, Great Basin Desert Region)

Goshute Indian Tribe, PO Box 6104, Ibapah, UT 84034, 435-234-1138

Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians, 3359 South Main Street #808, Salt Lake City, UT 84115, 801-484-4422

#### Paiute (Southwestern Utah, Desert/Canyons Region)

Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, 440 North Paiute Drive, Cedar City, UT 84720, 435-586-1112

San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe, PO Box 2710, Tuba City, AZ 86045, 928-283-5539

#### Navajo (Extreme Southeastern Utah, Painted Desert Region)

Navajo Nation, P.O. Box 9000, Highway 264 Tribal Hills Drive, Window Rock, AZ 86515, 928-871-6000

### Annual Events

Living Traditions Festival, Salt Lake City (May)

Paiute Restoration Days Pow Wow, Cedar City (June)

Heber Valley Pow Wow, Soldier Hollow (June)

Northern Ute Pow Wow, Fort Duchesne (July)

Annual Pioneer Celebration, Monument Valley (August)

Native American Festival and Pow Wow, West Valley City (August)

Bear Dance: Traditional Hand and Stick Games, White Mesa (September)

Bear Dance, Bluff (Labor Day)

Navajo Fair and Rodeo, Bluff (September)

Native American Pow Wow, Tooele (September)

### Habitation Sites, Rock Art and Museums By Region

*Did you know? Petroglyphs describe ancient rock art where inscriptions or images were pecked or incised into the rock, while pictographs were painted onto the surface using plant and mineral dyes. The exact meanings of many pictographs and petroglyphs are yet unknown.*

There are countless Native American sites of interest around the state, some better-known while others are scarcely documented. To the south, cliff dwellings and kiva ruins may be found at Hovenweep National Monument and Edge of the Cedars State Park. Rock art locations are well preserved from Antelope Island in the North to Newspaper Rock to the South. Across Utah are many sites where ancient stone dwellings and places of worship have been stabilized, preserved, and interpreted for the enrichment and education of present and future generations. The locations included below represent merely a cross-section of accessible sites marked by ancient plains and puebloan cultures.

#### Northern Utah Shoshone Region



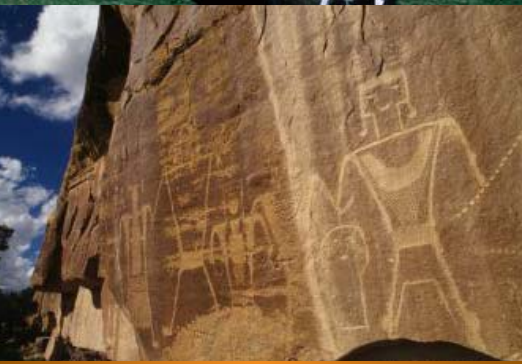
**Islands of the Great Salt Lake** Rock art created by members of the pre-Columbian Fremont Culture may be seen at Antelope Island State Park. Visitor access is provided via seven-mile causeway spanning from mainland Syracuse out to the island. Excavated artifacts reveal the Puebloan people inhabited the islands more than 6,000 years ago and in some areas of northwestern Utah's deserts.



Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, Robert Riberia



Native American Festival and Pow Wow, West Valley City



Dry Fork Canyon, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument



Traditional Navajo weaver, Monument Valley

800-200-1160 |  
Int'l: 1-801-538-1900

www.utah.travel

© 2008 UTAH OFFICE OF TOURISM. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

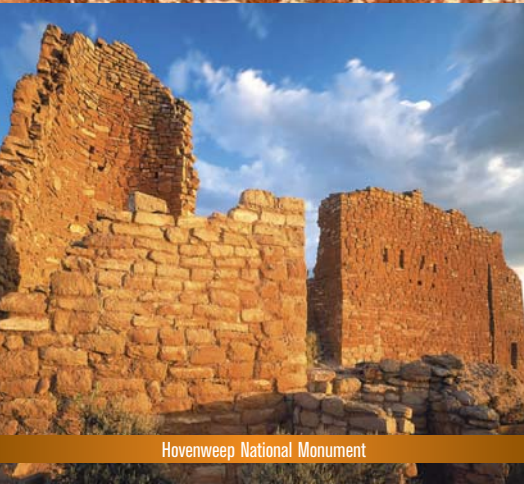




Dancer at Liberty Park Pow Wow, Salt Lake City



"The Owl" petroglyph at Nine Mile Canyon, near Price



Hovenweep National Monument



Fremont pictograph, San Rafael Swell, south-central Utah

### Eastern Utah Ute Region



**Dry Fork Canyon**, on the lower west portion of the Red Cloud Loop north of Vernal, has some of America's most impressive petroglyph panels.

**Buckhorn Draw** near Cedar Mountain in the San Rafael Swell, about 20 miles east of Castle Dale on gravel roads, and Temple Wash north of Goblin Valley State Park, offer intriguing petroglyphs.

**Rochester Creek Panel**, a rock art collection located just south of Moore (about 1.5 hours south of Price, or North of Fremont Jct. off I-70) has possible solstice or equinox connections.

**Nine Mile Canyon** is an outdoor museum. Accessed from US-40 at Duchesne/Myton to the north or US-6 at Price/Wellington to the south via gravel road, the canyon walls feature countless petroglyph and pictograph panels that have been perfectly preserved through the centuries. The canyon also shelters granaries and tower structures, hundreds of feet above the canyon floor, believed to be watch towers. Take time to pick up a copy of the detailed self-guided tour brochure available in Price.

**Range Creek Wildlife Management Area**, southwest of Price, shelters pristine Fremont Indian rock art and ruins among the rugged Book Cliffs. The area was purchased by the federal government in 2004 and is now owned by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Range Creek is open to limited public visitation. Permits are required. It's considered one of the most significant archaeological finds in the US in the last 50 years. [www.wildlife.utah.gov/range\\_creek](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov/range_creek)

### West-Central Utah Goshute Region



**Fremont Indian State Park and Museum** at the Hwy 89/ I-70 junction 24 miles southwest of Richfield or 15 miles east of I-15, has a collection of Fremont Indian artifacts from nearby Five Fingers Hill. Short, maintained trails lead past several impressive panels of rock art figures. The museum interprets the culture of the Fremont civilization which existed throughout Utah around 500-1300 AD. [stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov)

### Southwestern Utah Paiute Region



**Anasazi State Park and Museum** preserves an ancient village discovered at Boulder, UT. One of the largest Ancient Puebloan (Anasazi) communities west of the Colorado River, the village has been partially excavated. Artifacts are on display in the museum, giving visitors an idea of what life here was like a thousand years ago. [stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov)

**Parowan Gap** is a BLM-administered national historical site 10 miles west of Parowan that features a gallery of ancient petroglyphs. Recently, researchers have identified an ancient solar and lunar calendaring system at the Gap, believed to be one of a few locations in the world where various solar time events are marked by shadows cast by the natural rock formations. The sun, moon and planets rise and set in notches inside the Gap as interpreted by the petroglyphs.

### Southeastern Utah Ute & Navajo Region



**Newspaper Rock** is one of the finest examples of rock art in the Southwest. This stone "bulletin board" has over 350 distinct petroglyphs carved by the ancients more than 800 years ago on a single southwest-facing boulder. Figures riding horses and shooting arrows are considered a portrayal of the Ute Indians who obtained horses in the 1600's. This BLM-administered site is on Hwy 211 accessible from US 191 near Canyonlands National Park.

**Edge of the Cedars State Park and Museum** in Blanding interprets the remains of an ancient Puebloan village with its ceremonial kivas that were built between 700 and 1220 A.D. The park site is a strong testament to the civilization that once flourished in southeastern Utah. The ruin consists of six distinct habitation and ceremonial complexes. The museum houses a collection of artifacts and pottery and is the regional archaeological repository for southeastern Utah. [stateparks.utah.gov](http://stateparks.utah.gov)

**The Nations of the Four Corners Cultural Center**, also in Blanding, honors the Native American, Hispanic and Anglo cultures that live in this part of the state.

**Trail of the Ancients** is a 100-mile National Scenic Byway loop that begins south of Monticello. Many remnants of the Pueblo culture between 300 and 1300 AD are seen while traveling this unique roadway that takes in several national monuments, Mesa Verde National Park, and famed Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park.

**Grand Gulch Primitive Area**, southwest of Blanding near the junction of Hwys 261 and 95, contains hundreds of cliff dwellings. The BLM requires visitors to obtain a permit before entering this rugged area, accessible only by hike or horseback.

**Hovenweep National Monument**, southeast of Blanding via Hwy 262, presents an ancient fortress and tower ruins in a solitary setting. [www.nps.gov/hove](http://www.nps.gov/hove)

**Monument Valley** was set aside as a Navajo Tribal Park in 1959. This iconic symbol of the American West is internationally recognizable, having appeared in countless movies. Both the park headquarters and visitor center offer information on the area and exhibit Navajo archaeology, arts and crafts. A self-guided scenic drive leads to overlooks of the park's famous formations, while further exploration is offered via guided tour. [www.navajonationparks.org](http://www.navajonationparks.org)

### On The Web

[indian.utah.gov](http://indian.utah.gov)  
Utah Division of Indian Affairs

[utah.com/tribes](http://utah.com/tribes)  
Information on points of interest